

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the December 17, 2003 NCTC Meeting

DATE: December 10, 2003

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### 1. SCHEDULE FOR U.C. BERKELEY TRAFFIC SAFETY EVALUATION TEAM

On November 24, 2003, our written request was submitted to the U.C. Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies for evaluation of the following intersections:

- SR 49 from Kenwood Drive to La Barr Meadows Road
- South Auburn Street/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue Intersection in Grass Valley
- Brunswick Road/Idaho-Maryland Road Intersection
- Brunswick Road from SR 174 to Burma Road

After the Thanksgiving holiday, I followed up with a phone call to the Traffic Safety Program coordinator at U.C. Berkeley, and was informed that we should expect a call from their staff by December 12<sup>th</sup> with a proposed schedule for conducting the safety evaluation.

### 2. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF IDAHO-MARYLAND/EAST MAIN STREET ROUNDABOUT

Greg Bickett, with Bickett Engineering, has provided us with a schedule that not only includes the work he will be doing under the current contract, but also shows a schedule for the project through construction. Greg and I reviewed the schedule on December 9<sup>th</sup> and we believe it is achievable. However, we have noted there are three potential risks to this schedule. Those risks include completion of environmental documentation, acquisition of right-of-way, and undergrounding of utilities. We have scheduled a meeting with the City of Grass Valley to review these issues and plan how we can ensure that none of them delay the construction of the roundabout. Greg and I are working with Caltrans District 3 to schedule a Project Team meeting for December 18<sup>th</sup> to review the roundabout plan with the Caltrans Headquarters Geometrician John Steele. Based on comments received at that meeting, we will have final layout ready by February 19, 2004, and would expect only minor modifications to the design after that.

Moving forward from February 19<sup>th</sup>, Greg will have the final Project Study Report/Project Report (PSR/PR) completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Following the July 1<sup>st</sup> submittal of the PSR/PR, we expect to move into topographic surveys in July 2004, and then complete Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E), by January 2005. This will have the project ready to start construction in March 2005, with completion by August 2005.

### 3. 2004 DRAFT STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP) FUND ESTIMATE

Biennially, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopts a five-year fund estimate for the State's transportation accounts. The draft 2004 STIP Fund Estimate was released by Caltrans on November 19, 2003. The CTC is scheduled to adopt the final 2004 STIP Fund Estimate on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The 2004 STIP will cover the five-year period from 2004/05 through 2008/09 and will have no new funding capacity. For the most part it will simply reschedule \$5.4 billion of projects remaining from the 2002 STIP, that were programmed for delivery over the next three years, to the next five years.

Statewide, the funding shift is shown below:

**2002 STIP Project Rescheduling Required to Meet 2004 STIP Annual Program Targets**  
(\$ Millions)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2002 STIP</b>	<b>2004 STIP</b>	
	Actual Program	Annual Program Targets	Difference
<b>2004-05</b>	\$2,825	\$153	-\$2,672
<b>2005-06</b>	\$875	\$1,479	\$604
<b>2006-07</b>	\$1,722	\$1,251	-\$471
<b>2007-08</b>		\$1,226	\$1,226
<b>2008-09</b>		\$1,312	\$1,312
<b>Total</b>	\$5,422	\$5,421	

Based on the draft 2004 STIP Fund Estimate, Nevada County will have to work with the following funding shift:

**Nevada County 2002 STIP Rescheduling to Meet 2004 STIP Annual Program Targets**  
(\$ Thousands)

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2002 STIP</b>	<b>2004 STIP</b>	
	Actual Program	Annual Program Targets	Difference
<b>2004-05</b>	\$5,928	\$243	-\$5,685
<b>2005-06</b>	\$175	\$2,350	\$2,175
<b>2006-07</b>	\$10,650	\$1,988	-\$8,662
<b>2007-08</b>		\$1,949	\$1,949
<b>2008-09</b>		\$10,223	\$10,223
<b>Total</b>	\$16,753	\$16,753	

Bringing the Nevada County projects in line with the 2004 STIP Program Targets will require significant changes in the following projects: Dorsey Drive Interchange, SR 89 "Mousehole" Widening, SR 49 Widening from Wolf/Combie to Grass Valley, and NCTC's budget for Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) funds. Over the next ninety days, NCTC staff and Caltrans District 3 staff will be working out a proposed rescheduling of these projects.

An additional factor in this process will be any impacts from the Governor's proposed mid-year budget changes. As presented in late November, the Governor proposes to reduce transportation funding by an additional \$529 million in FY 03/04, with a \$403 million dollar reduction in FY 04/05.

4. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STATUS OF CRESTVIEW INTERSECTION/INTERCHANGE

A meeting of project stakeholders was held on November 21, 2003 and changes were made to the proposed scope of work. Tim Fleming, project consultant with Mark Thomas and Company, is to revise and present a final scope of work by mid-December. Based on that scope of work, cost sharing for the project will be worked out between the South Hill Village and North Star Mine developers. Our next project team meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2004.

5. TRANSPORTATION ART FOR NEVADA COUNTY'S SR 49 GATEWAY

On November 24<sup>th</sup> I participated with representatives of the Gateway Committee, established by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, in a press conference and site tour with local artists interested in submitting concepts for the proposed "Transportation Art" project. The Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce and the South Nevada County Chamber of Commerce hosted the event. Members of the committee that attended, included Terry Williams from South Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, Mary Ann Mueller from Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, Chet Krage from NCTC, and Sue Horne from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. Ann Marie Robinson represented Caltrans and staffs from Nevada County DOTS and NCTC were present. Artists now have until March 1, 2004 to submit their concepts to the Gateway Committee. The South Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, Grass Valley/Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, and the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce have committed to developing a fund raising effort for construction of the project.

6. TRIENNIAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT

Every three years, NCTC is required by the California Public Utilities Code Section 99246 to contract for performance audits of its activities and the activities of each operator (Nevada County Transit Services Division and the Town of Truckee) to whom it allocates funds. NCTC is not required to conduct performance audits of services that receive funding under Article 8 of the Transportation Development Act (i.e. Gold Country Telecare, Inc.); however, in the past, NCTC has always requested performance audits of those services to ensure they were operated in a cost effective manner and to provide them guidance for improving service.

NCTC staff issued a request for proposals for performance audits on September 29, 2003 and received four responses. Staff from the Town of Truckee, Nevada County Transit Services, Gold Country Telecare, and NCTC independently scored the proposals according to four criteria: understanding of the requirements, approach, cost effectiveness, and experience. LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. was selected and a contract was signed on November 7, 2003. The consultant is tentatively scheduled to collect data and review operations of NCTC and the transit/paratransit operators in mid-December and January. The draft performance audit reports will be delivered to staff in February for review, and the final draft reports will be distributed to the Commission on March 17, 2004 for their review and comments.

7. NCTC OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

In keeping with our practice of maximizing the use of floating holidays and vacation time during the Christmas season, the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) office will be closed from December 22, 2003 through January 1, 2004.